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8-6-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Christian Schann

SERIAL NO.: Not Yet Assigned

FILED: January 30, 2002

EXAMINER: Not Yet Assigned

TITLE: Method for Overwelding Filter Cassettes
And Devices Produced Therefrom

ART UNIT: Not Yet Assigned

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant submits this preliminary amendment for consideration before examination of the case on its merits.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-7 from this case.

Amend Claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) Filter unit for removing contaminants from a fluid stream, comprising:
- a thermoplastic support member or housing [(13)], a porous filter element [(12)] and a thermoplastic overmold sealing member [(18)],
 - said thermoplastic support member or housing [(13)] being formed of a first support part [(14)] and a second support part [(16)], each having at least one fluid flow passageway, and at least one thermoplastic overmold flow passageway [(20)],
 - said filter element [(12)] extending over said fluid flow passageway(s), its periphery adjacent to at least one thermoplastic overmold flow passageway [(20)] and secured to said thermoplastic first and second support parts [(14, 16)] by said thermoplastic overmold sealing member [(18)] also being disposed through the thermoplastic overmold flow passageway(s) [(20)].

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Amend Claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) A filter [Filter] unit according to claim 8 further comprising means for minimizing obturation of the filter element [(12)] by male luer fittings[, for example an anti-obturation plate (24)].

Amend Claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) A filter [Filter] unit according to claim [9] 8 further comprising means for centering said filter unit [(11)] when used in automated applications[, for example a centering aid (25)].

Add new Claims 11 and 12 as follows:

11. (New) A filter unit according to claim 8 further comprising a centering aid for centering said filter unit when used in automated applications.
12. (New) A filter unit according to claim 8 further comprising an anti-obturation plate for minimizing obturation of the filter element by male luer fittings.

REMARKS

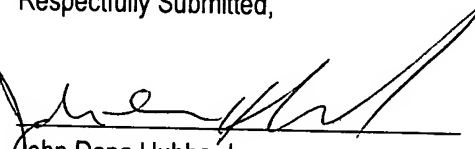
This amendment is submitted for consideration before examination on the merits. Claims 1-7 are contained in co-pending, parent application USSN 09/650,372, filed August 28, 2000.

The numerals in the parentheticals of claims 8-10 have been deleted. New claims 11 and 12 incorporate the preferred means mentioned as examples in claims 9 and 10.

A separate sheet containing the amended and new claims is also attached for the examiner's use.

Respectfully Submitted,

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